

# STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No.153

22p

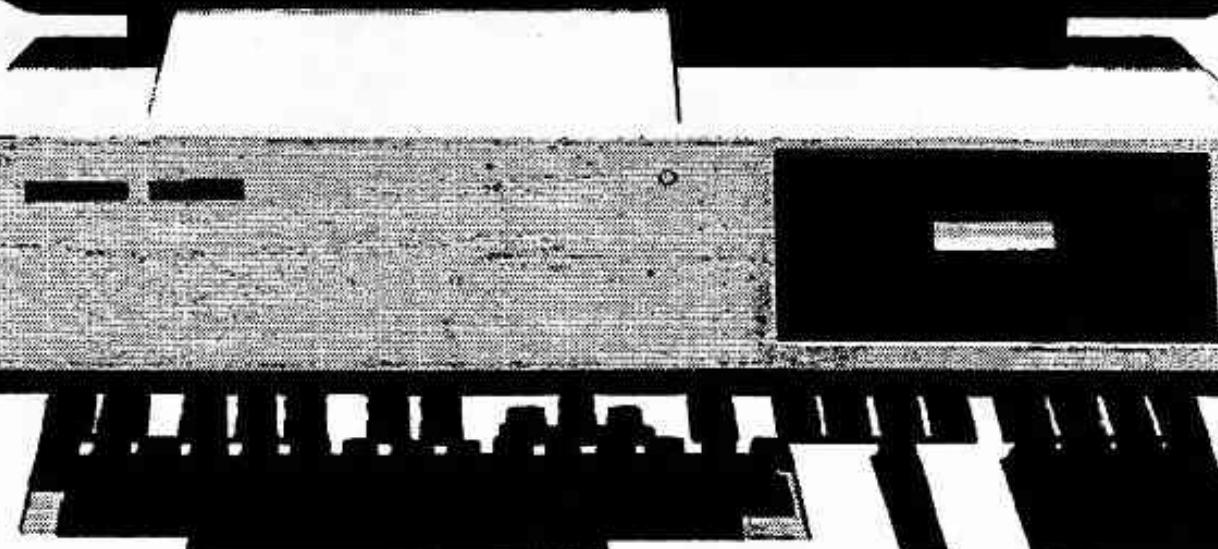
## the STAR DESTROYERS



A COLONISED WORLD SUDDENLY  
GOES NOVA, AND A SOLITARY CRAFT  
FLEES BEFORE THE HEAVING TIDE OF  
DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY. IT MUST  
ESCAPE OR EARTH IS DOOMED!

# STARBLAZER

**The Galaxy is so vast and wide  
that incidents occur nobody  
ever knows about. When a star  
went nova in Zygma sector,  
destroying a World and its  
people, Earth colonists on the  
far flung planets went about  
their daily tasks unaware of the  
fate of their fellow colonists . . .  
until a craft escaped from a  
second energy release, with the  
dire warning. BEWARE . . .**



# THE STAR DESTROYERS

FROM THE STAR THRAX, IN THE SAGGITARIUS SECTOR, A SOLAR FLARE SUDDENLY BURST FORTH.

HOW SPECTACULAR!

THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.  
THE SOLAR OBSERVATORY SAY  
IT'S JUST A NATURAL  
OCCURRENCE.



ON PLANET THRAX II THERE WAS  
EXCITEMENT IN THE STREETS.



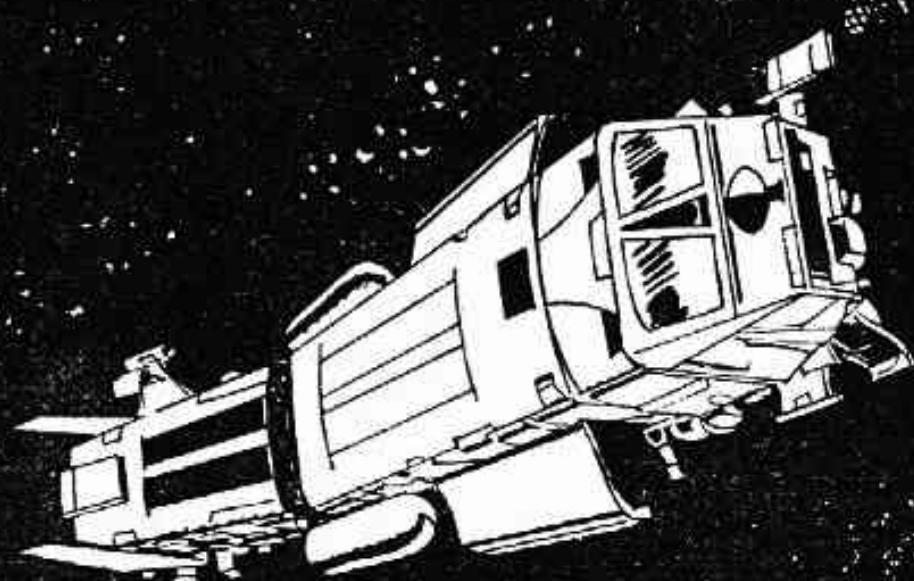
...BUT THE SUN EXPLODED, SENDING OUT ITS WAVES OF DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY AT  
INCREDIBLE SPEEDS.



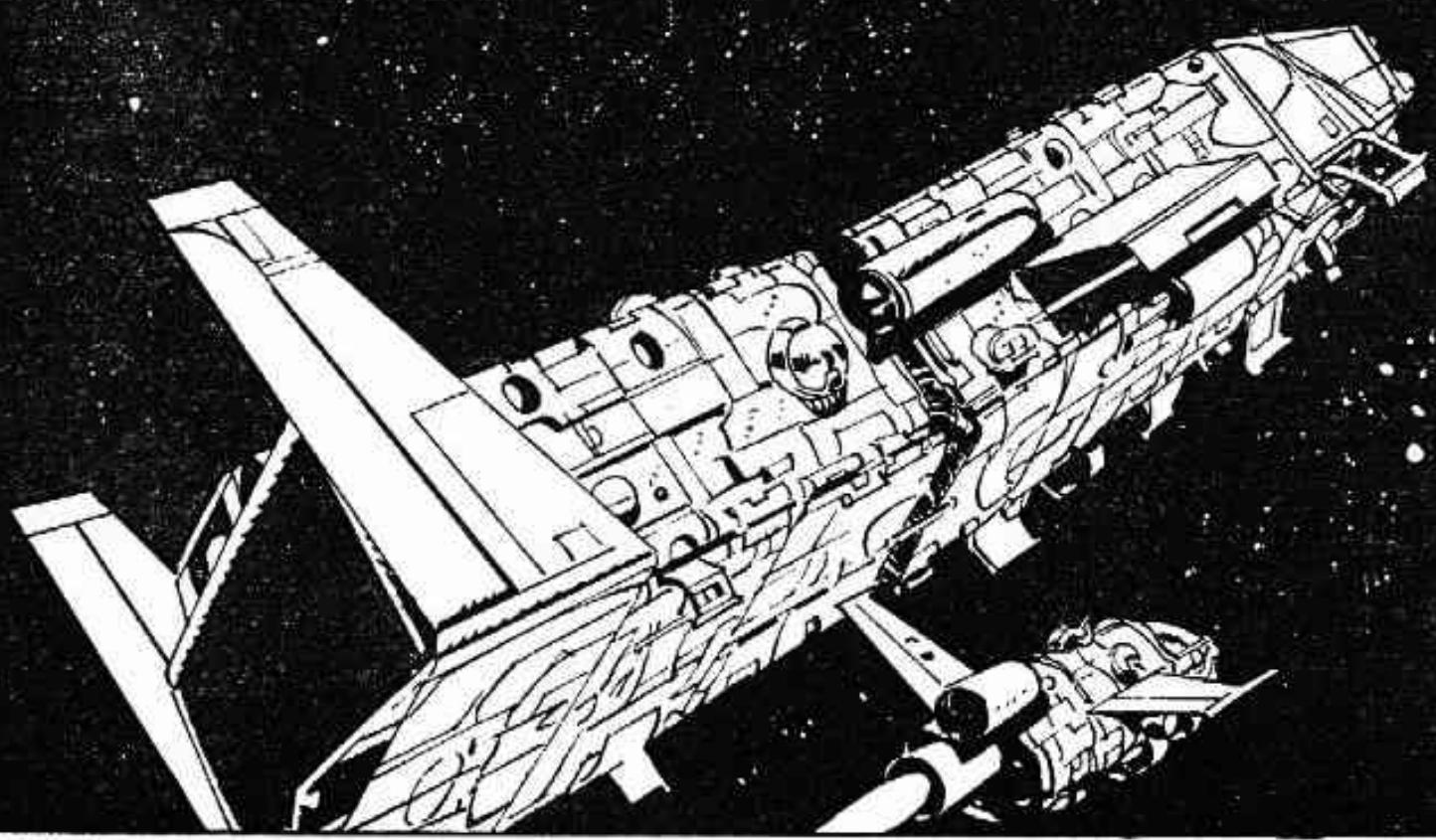
THRAX II DIED, AND WITH IT PERISHED A BILLION PEOPLE.



A THOUSAND PARSECS DISTANT IN THE ORION ARM, PREY TO SPACE HIJACKERS, A MAIL SHIP PLIED ITS DANGEROUS TRADE BETWEEN THE STARS.



BUT THE MAIL SHIP WAS NOT ALONE.

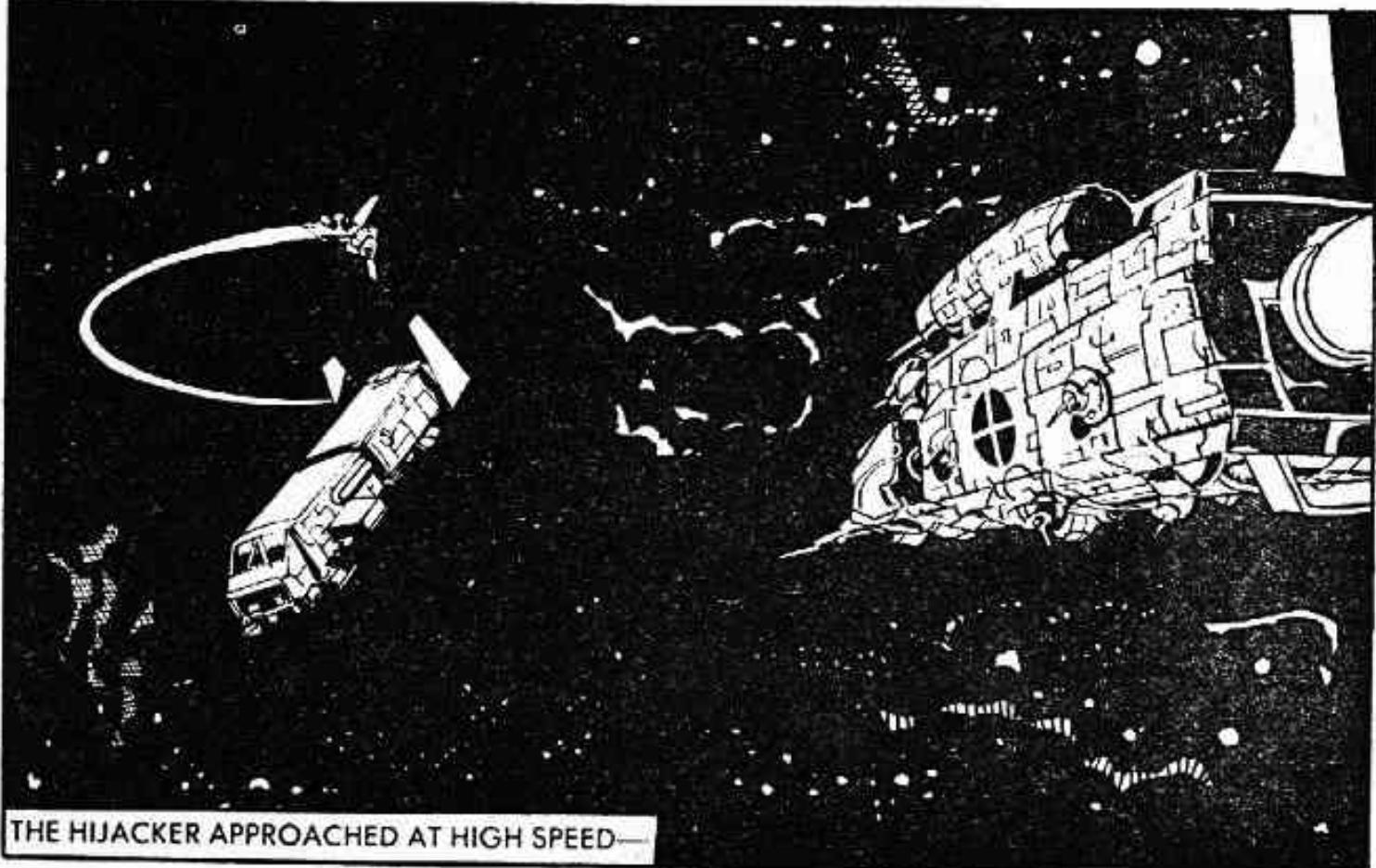


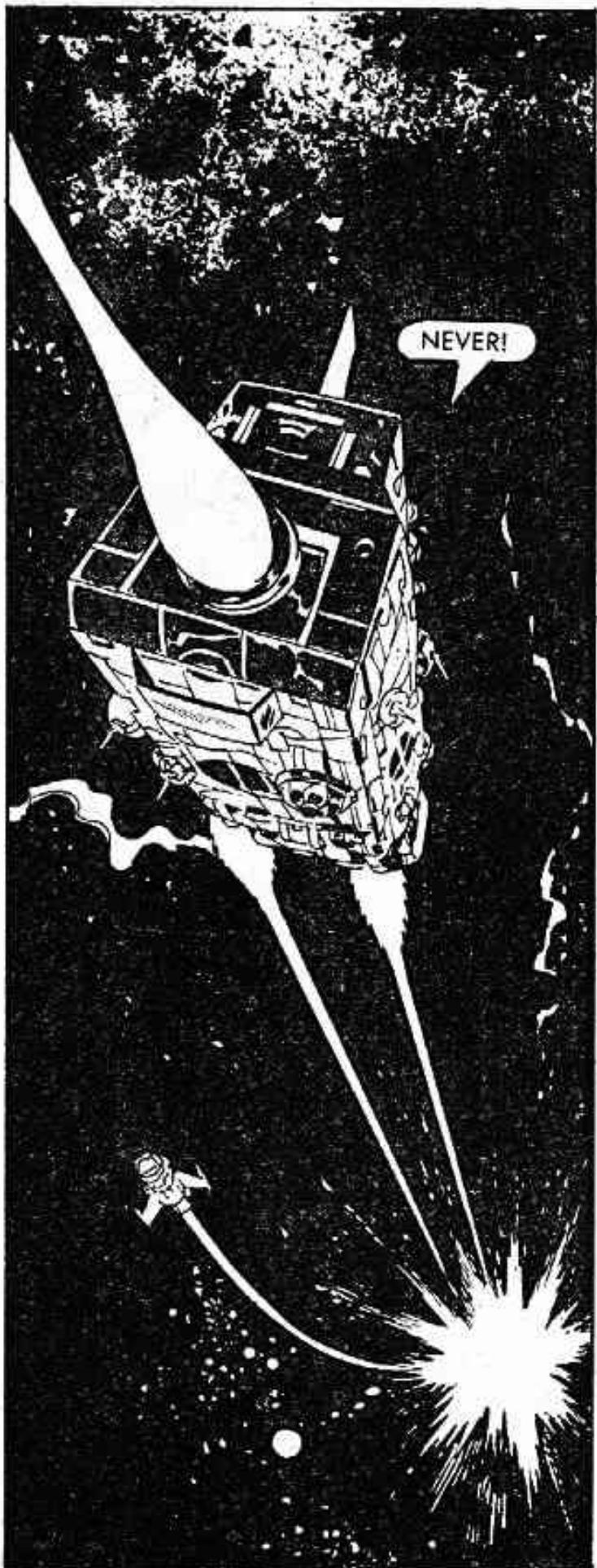
AGENT AL TAVER OF THE GALACTIC PATROL WAS ON STATION WITHIN THE MAIL SHIP'S FORCE FIELD.

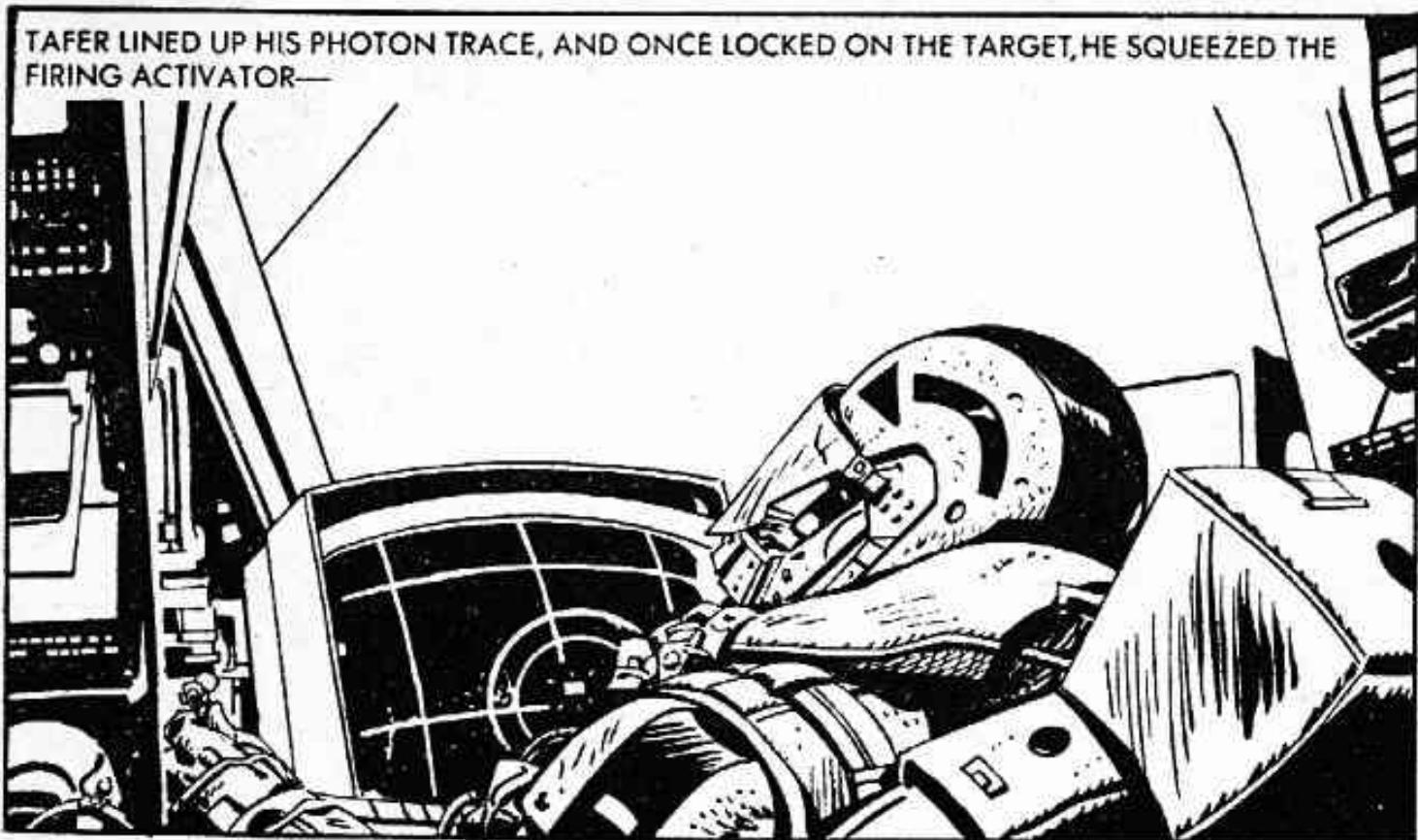
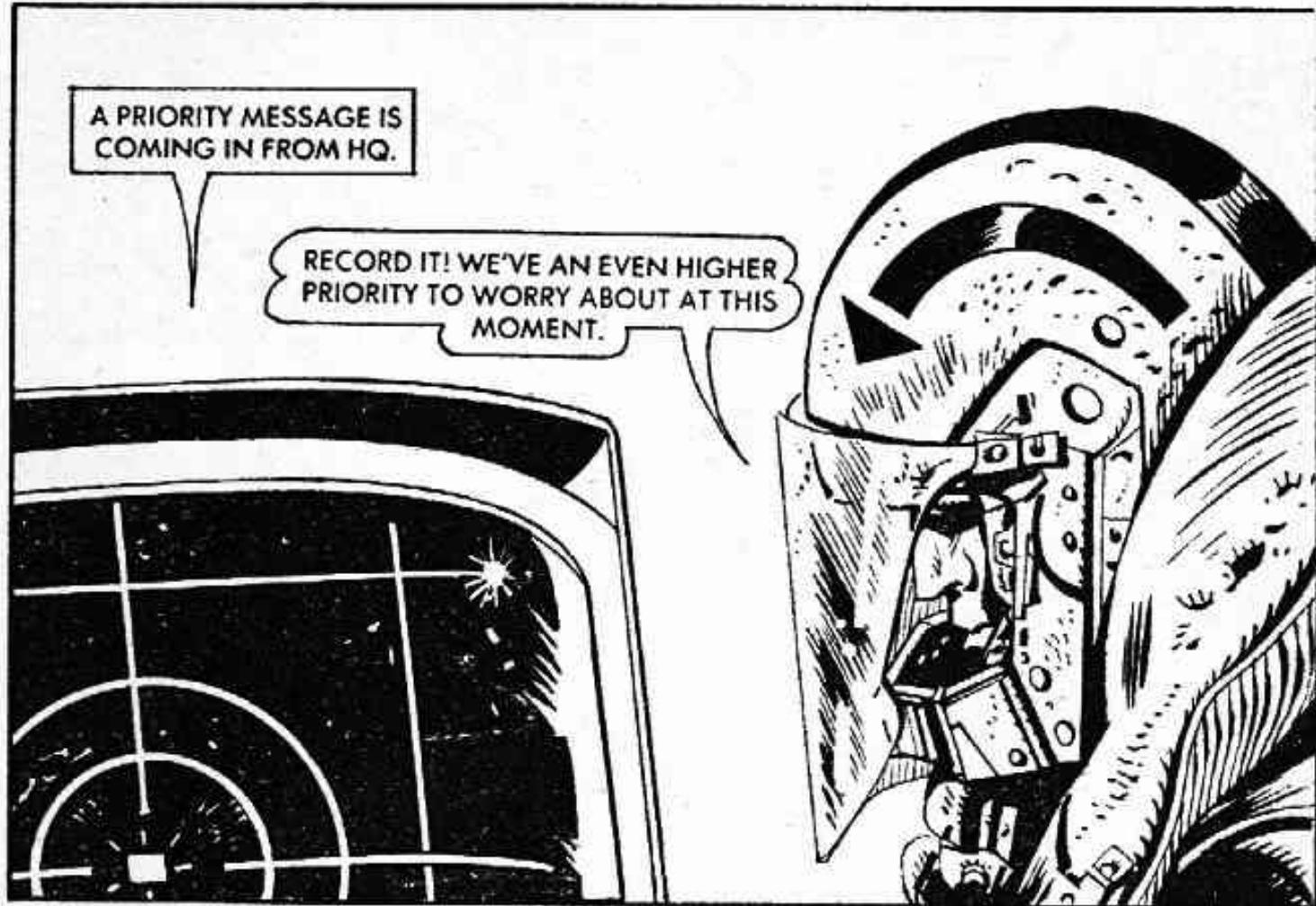
IS THAT A HIJACKER'S SHIP, TACS?

THE PROBABILITY IS 97.38 PER CENT.

TACS WAS THE TACTICAL ACTION COMPUTER SYSTEM, THE SHIP'S FIGHTING COMPUTER.









FROM NOW ON THE MAIL  
WILL GET THROUGH.



TACS, PUT THE MESSAGE  
ON SCREEN.

ON BEHALF OF THE GENERAL THIS IS  
ADJUTANT KALE SUMMONING YOU  
BACK TO INTERSTELLA—CATEGORY  
1—IMMEDIATE.



AFFIRMATIVE.

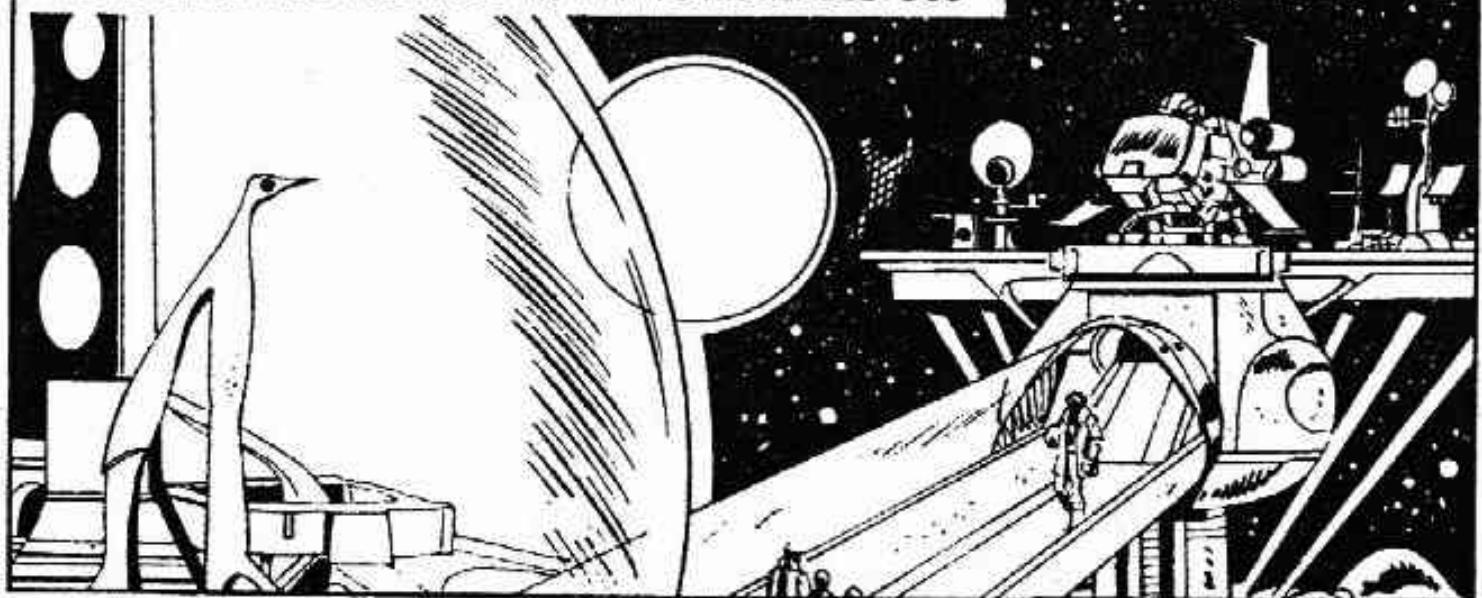
CATEGORY 1—THE ULTIMATE  
EMERGENCY. SOMETHING'S VERY  
BADLY AMISS, TACS. PLOT THE  
FASTEST COURSE BACK TO  
INTERSTELLA.



INTERSTELLA WAS A CITY BUILT BETWEEN THE STARS AND THE HOME OF GALACTIC PATROL. IT TOOK TAFER ONLY MOMENTS TO HYPER JUMP THERE.



TAFER DISEMBARKED AND MADE HIS WAY TO HIS RENDEZVOUS—



TAFER WAS MET BY HIS SUPERIOR, LIEUTENANT COLONEL BRIAN MITCHELL—

WHERE'S THE GENERAL? I  
THOUGHT IT WAS A CRISIS.

IT IS AND HE'LL SEE YOU SHORTLY,  
BUT FOR NOW COME WITH ME.



THEY HEADED FOR THE CITY'S HEART.

FIRST A VISIT TO THE ARMOURER AND  
HAVE YOUR PERSONAL WEAPONRY  
BROUGHT UP TO DATE.



IN A LABORATORY DEEP UNDERGROUND—

I DON'T FEEL A THING.

NEVERTHELESS A TINY LASER CANNON HAS BEEN  
IMPLANTED INTO YOUR FOREFINGER. IT FIRES ON  
BACKWARD PRESSURE AND DRAWS ITS ENERGY FROM  
YOUR BODY—SO DON'T OVER-USE IT!

TRY IT!

IT WORKS! SO TELL ME ABOUT  
THE CRISIS, MITCH.

THE GENERAL WILL INFORM YOU  
HIMSELF. HE'S IN THE BATTLE COMPUTER  
SECTION.



IN THE BATTLE COMPUTER SECTION

THAT WAS THE STAR THRAX. IT WENT  
NOVA WITHOUT WARNING, TAKING A  
BILLION PEOPLE WITH IT.



THERE HAVE BEEN NATURAE  
NOVAE BEFORE, GENERAL.

TRUE, BUT ALWAYS WITH ENOUGH WARNING TO ORGANISE AN EVACUATION. THE BATTLE COMPUTERS CALCULATE THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE THRAX NOVA BEING ARTIFICIAL AT 98 PER CENT. AND THRAX WAS IN A STRATEGIC POSITION.

THE STAR WAS  
... MURDERED!

A QUAIN, BUT CORRECT DESCRIPTION... BUT IT'S NOT JUST THRAX. THE COMPUTERS HAVE DISCOVERED A PATTERN. THE NEXT STAR WILL BE XEROS. AND XEROS III HAS TWO BILLION INHABITANTS.

THEN WE MUST  
EVACUATE IT.

XEROS

HOW DO YOU EVACUATE THAT MANY PEOPLE? ALL I CAN DO IS TO ASK YOU TO GO THERE AND DO SOMETHING.



THANKS, GENERAL.



GOOD LUCK!

I MIGHT JUST NEED IT!



TEN UNITS LATER TAFER ARRIVED AT XEROS III.



TAFER WAS MET PRIVATELY BY THE  
PLANETARY GOVERNOR.



TAFER BEGAN HIS INVESTIGATION IN THE  
TAFER SPACEPORT PRECINCT.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR, BUT  
SOMEBODY MUST BE MAKING THE SUNS GO  
NOVA... AND THAT NEEDS EQUIPMENT!

AS TAFER LOOKED AROUND—

THAT'S THE ONE, TOLLO.

YEAH, THOUGH HE DOESN'T  
LOOK VERY DANGEROUS TO ME.



THE PLOT THICKENS — THESE TWO HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN WELL BRIEFED ABOUT ME.

TAFER ACTIVATED HIS ELECTRON HALO WHICH WAS FITTED TO HIS ARM —



THE INCREASED POWER GIVEN TO TAFER'S ARM PROVED TOO MUCH FOR HIS ASSAILANTS.

THE REMAINING THUG PULLED OUT A LASER-KNIFE.

DIE — OUTWORLDER!

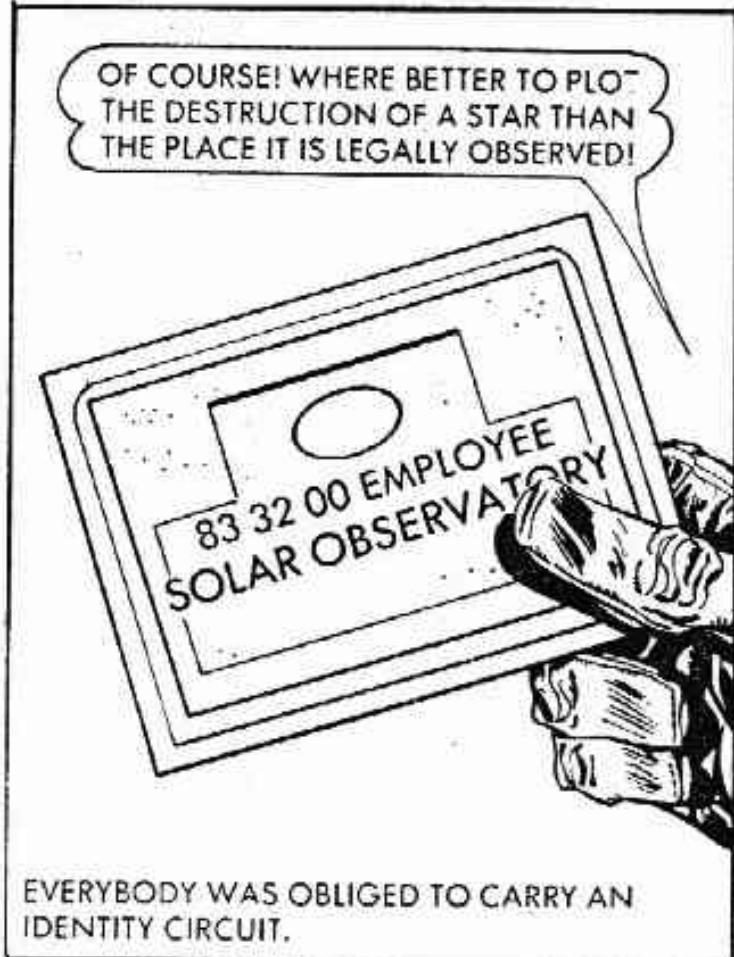
NO, THANK YOU!



A STRAIGHT-FINGERED JAB SENT THE THUG REELING —

CURSE YOU,  
OUTWORLDER.





TAFER MADE HIS WAY TO THE SOLAR OBSERVATORY —



TAFER CREEP IN AN UNGUARDED SIDE DOOR.





HELLO, AGAIN, GOVERNOR. I THINK YOU SHOULD CONSIDER YOURSELF UNDER ARREST.



YOU'VE BEEN CLEVER, TAFER, BUT IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD. THE MAGISTER VONOI HAS ORDAINED THAT XEROS WILL EXPLODE, AND WHAT THE MAGISTER DECREES . . .



THE GOVERNOR ATTACKED WITH SUDDEN FURY.

... THE VONANS ACCOMPLISH!



FINGERS LIKE STEEL CLAMPS CLASPED TAVER'S THROAT —

SEE, THE MAGISTER  
IS NEVER WRONG!



THERE'S ALWAYS  
A FIRST TIME!



THE GOVERNOR WAS REVEALED FOR WHAT HE WAS —



TAFER BEGAN TO FIT THINGS TOGETHER —





SLOWLY SUFFOCATING WITHOUT HIS BIO-CHIPPED MASK, THE VONAN AGENT STRETCHED OUT FOR HIS SALVATION.



THE VONAN WAS WHOLE AGAIN —

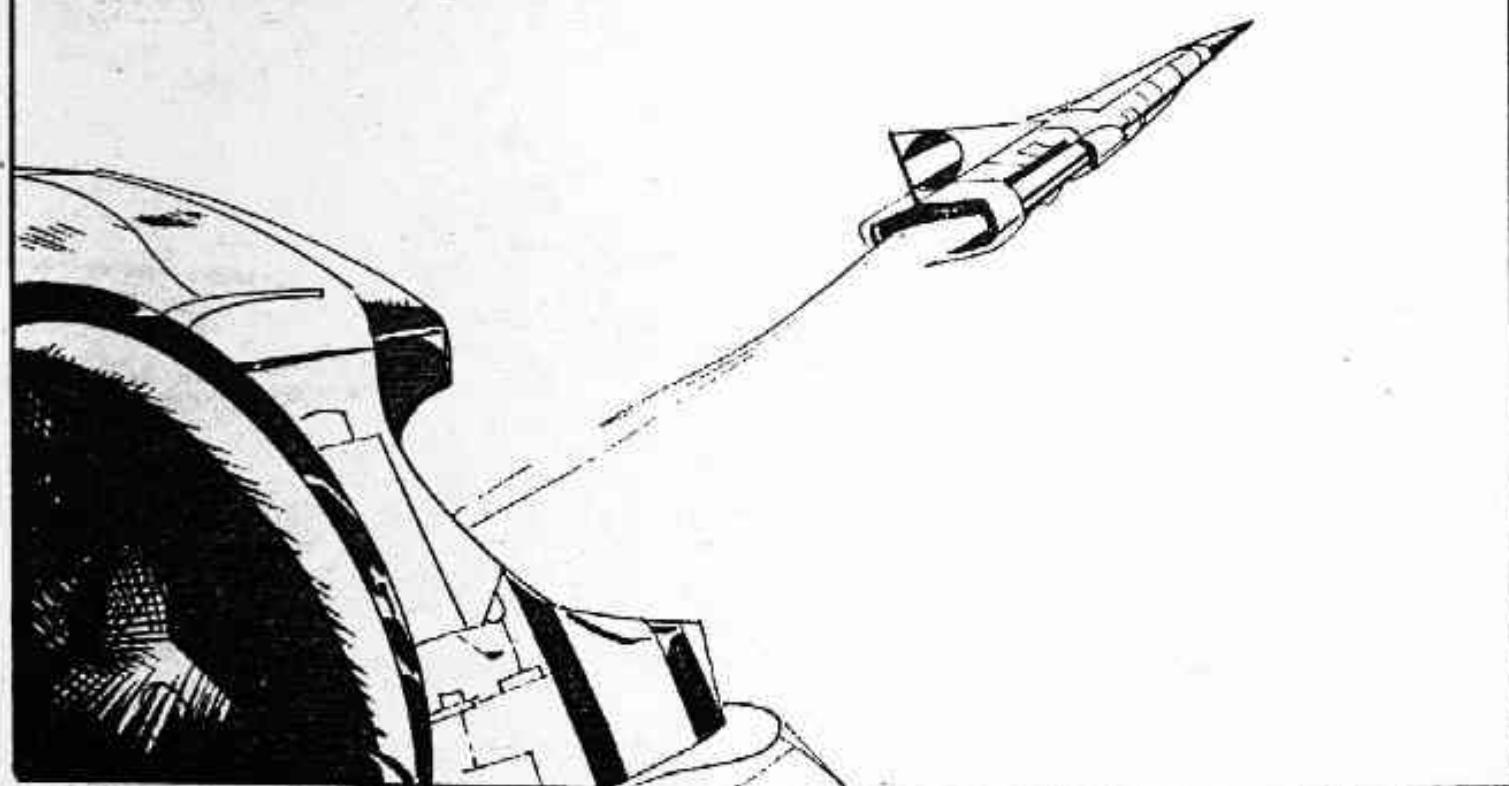


TAFER WAS SEALED IN THE PROJECTILE —

ORION'S HULKS! THE MADMAN'S  
STARTED THE LAUNCHING SEQUENCE!

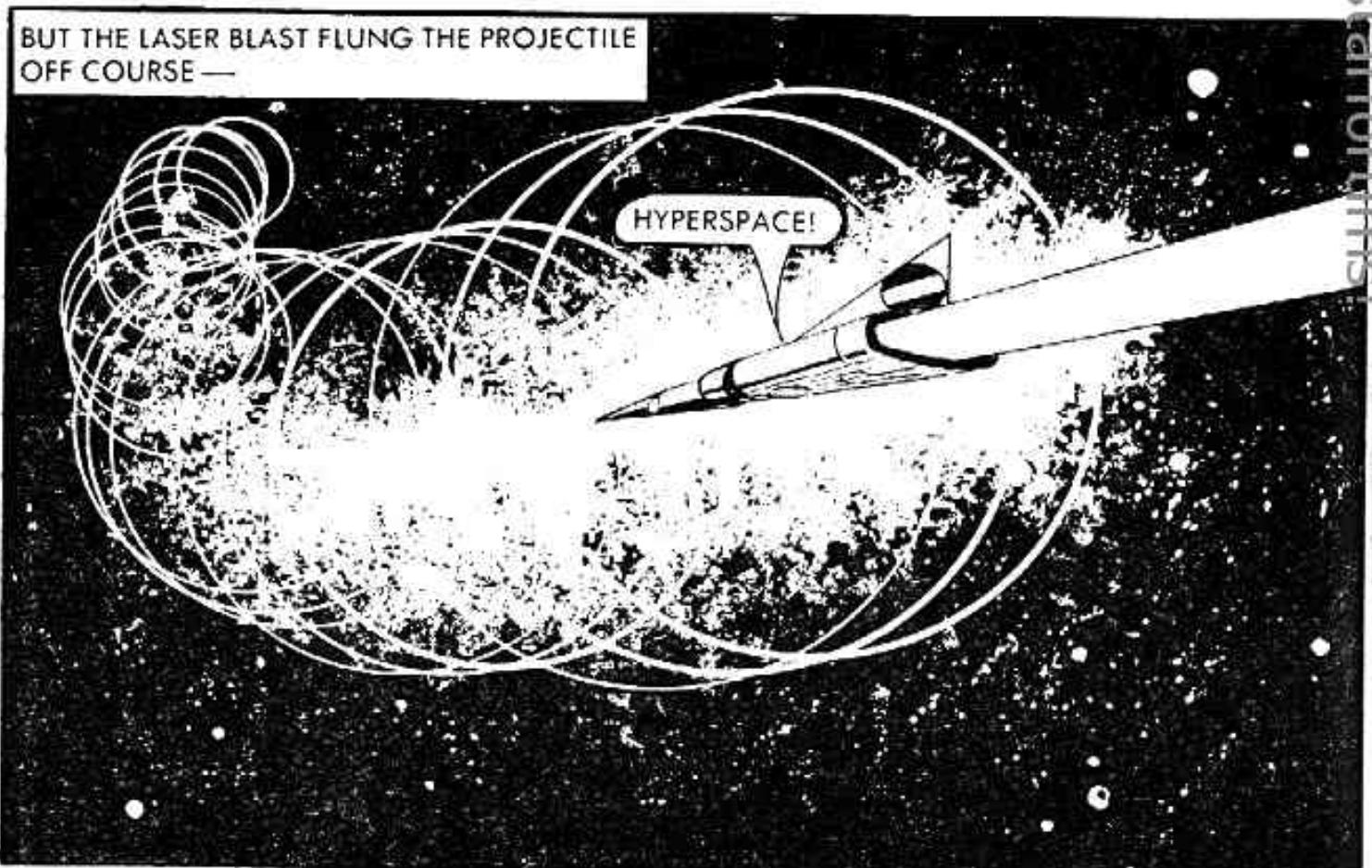


THE PROJECTILE BLASTED OFF —



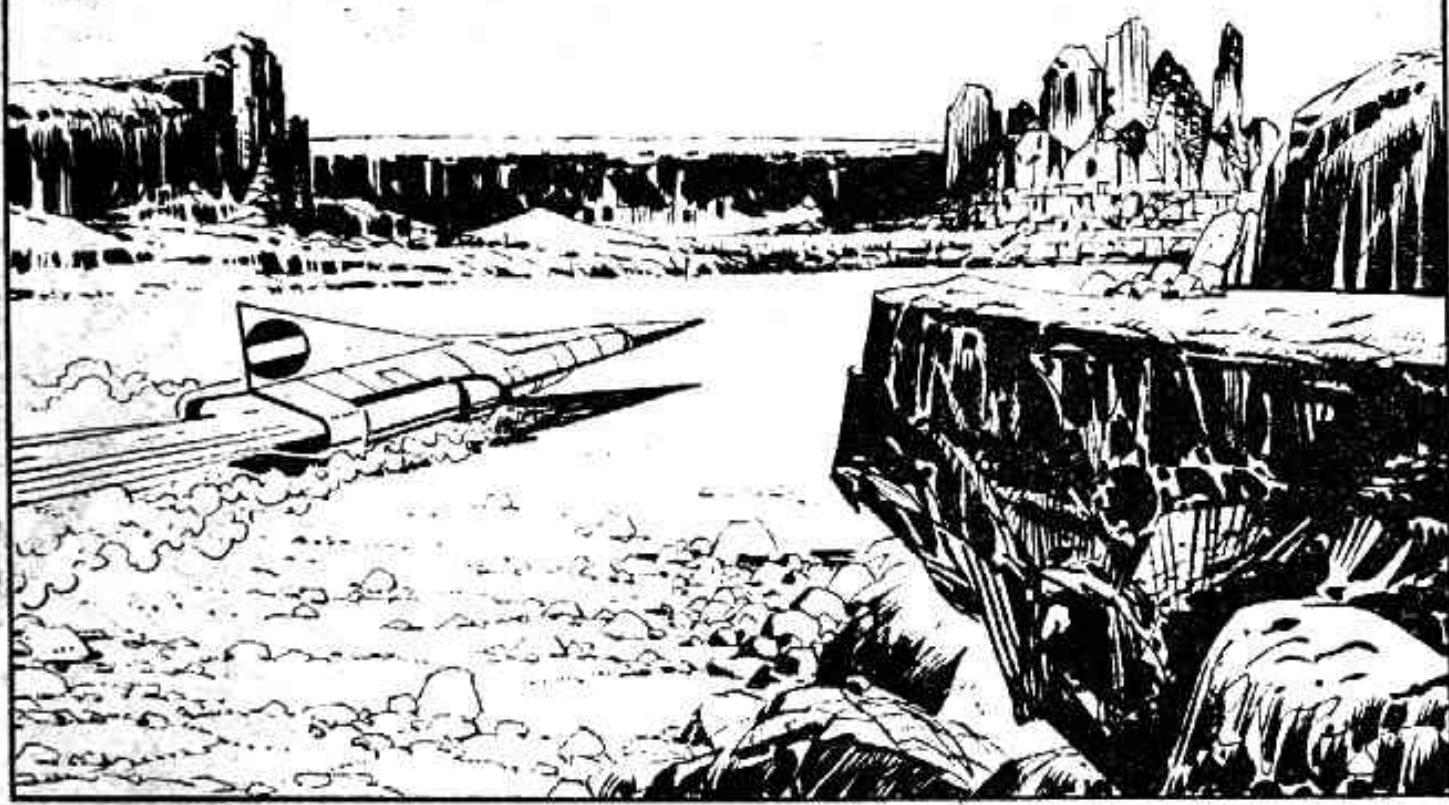


BUT THE LASER BLAST FLUNG THE PROJECTILE OFF COURSE —



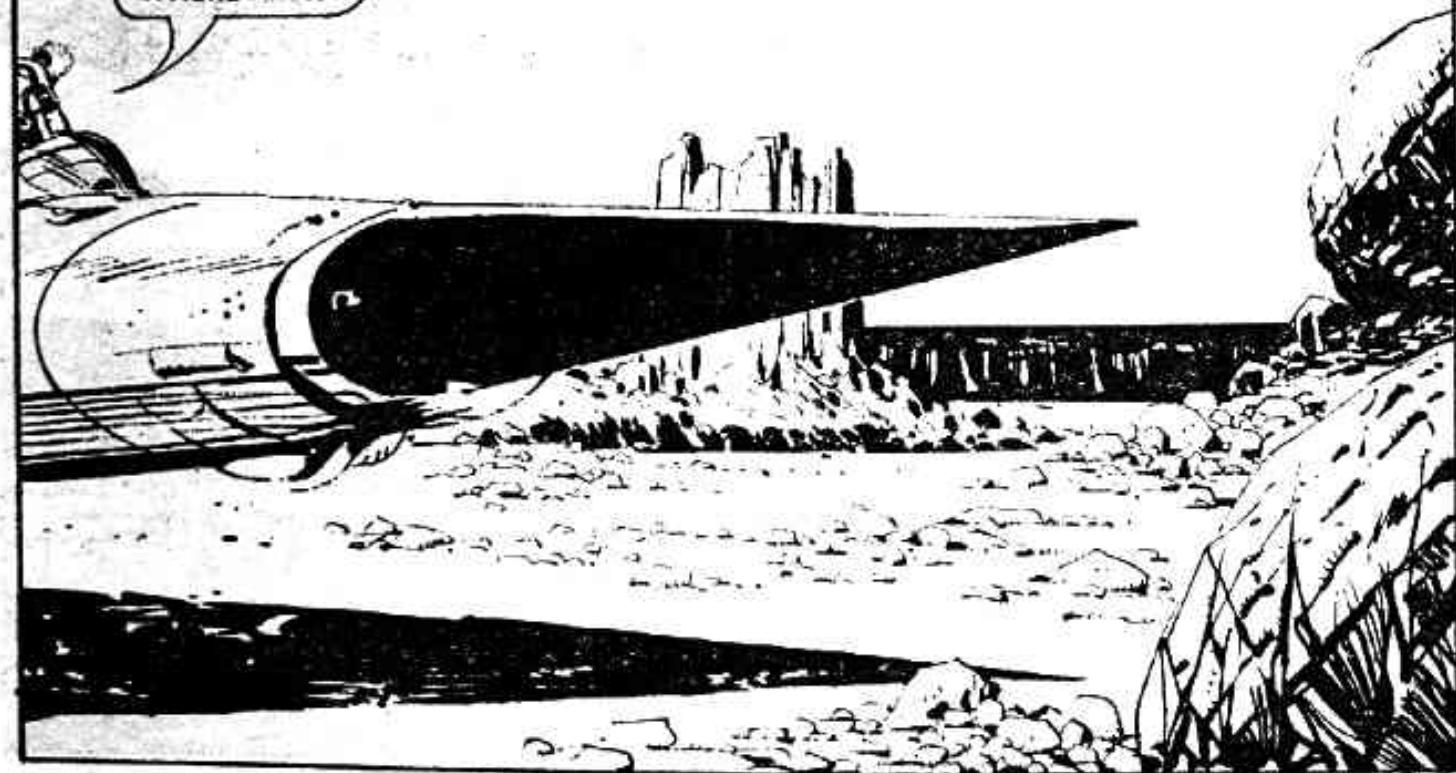
Join the Star Force!

INSTANTS LATER, A MILLION PARSECS DISTANT, THE PROJECTILE CAME TO LAND ON A STRANGE PLANET—

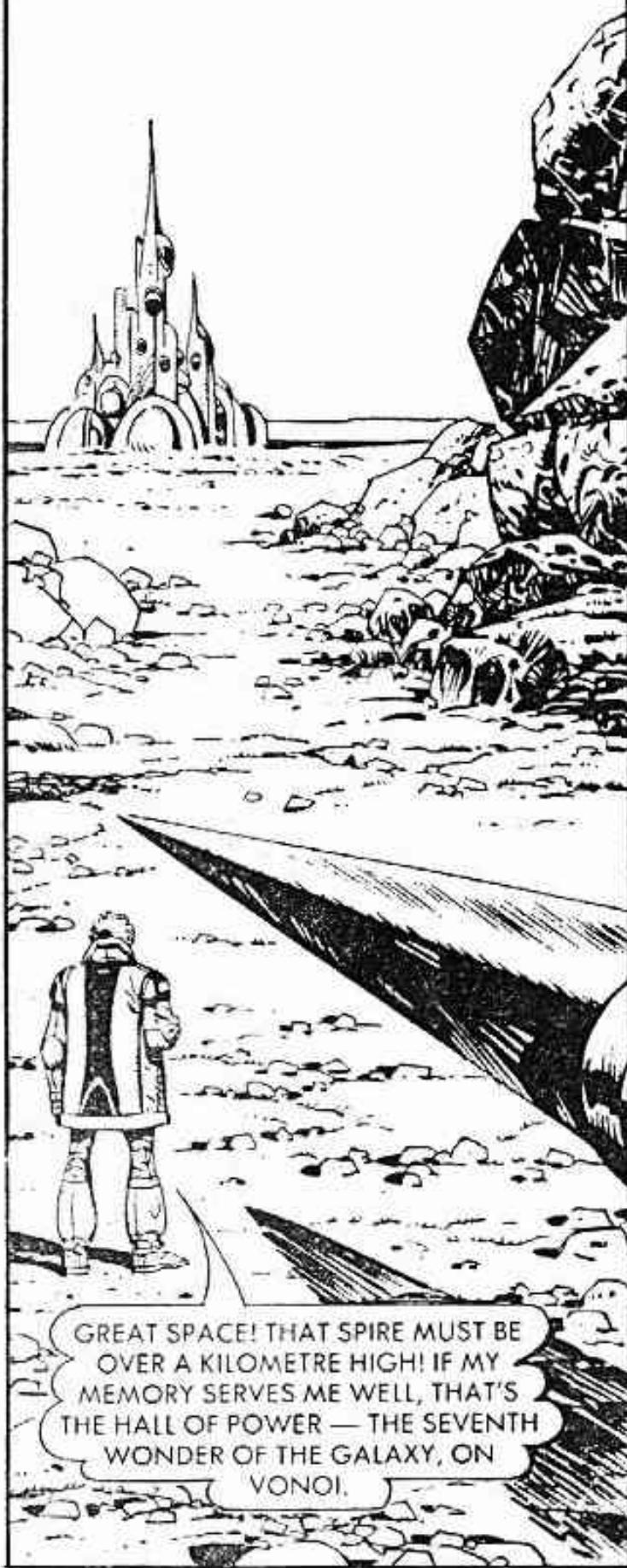


TAFER FORCED OPEN THE PROJECTILE MONOLOCK.

WHERE AM I?



IT WAS A WORLD WITHOUT PLANT LIFE ...

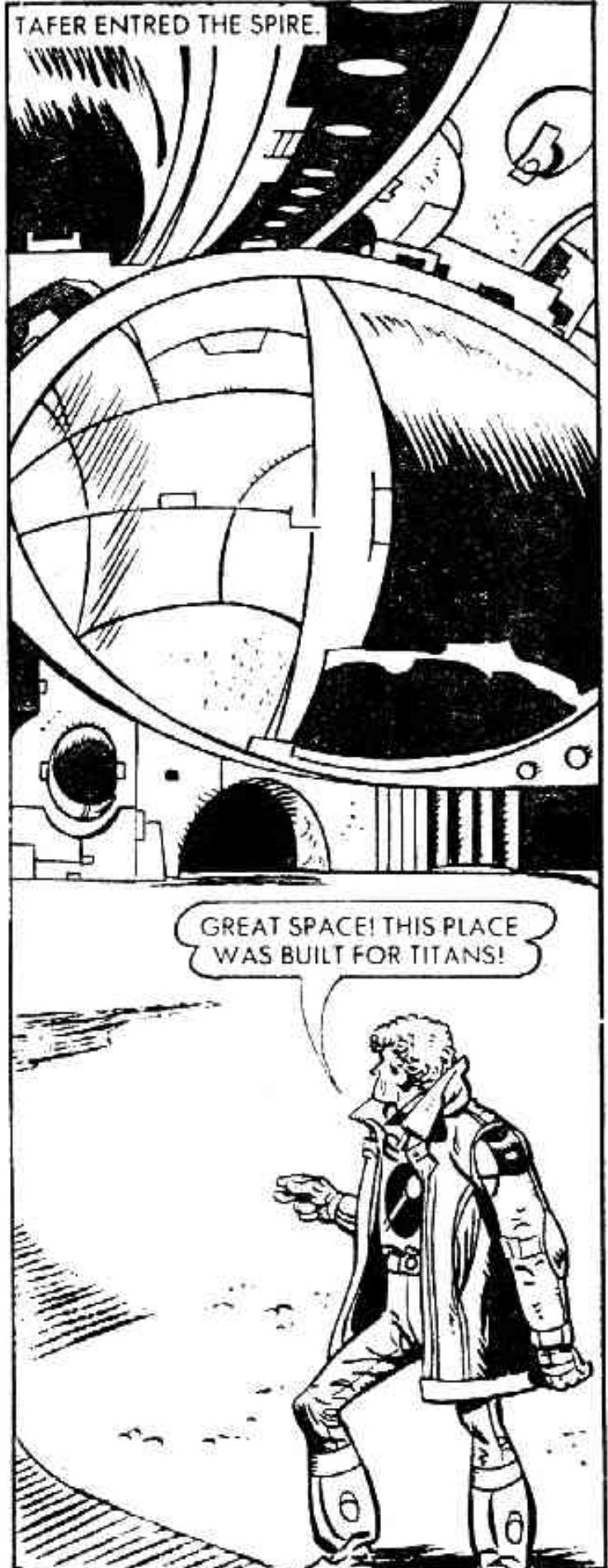




STOP, EARTHTMAN!

SORRY, BUT  
I'VE URGENT BUSINESS!





THE FIGURE APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE.



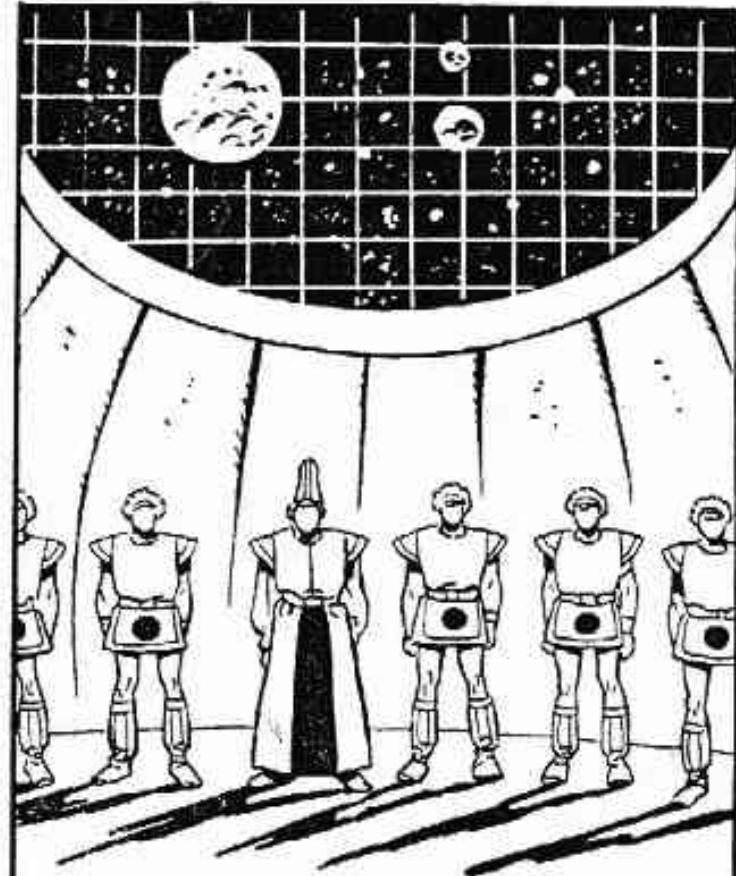


WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO THE GREAT COUNCIL CHAMBER, AGENT TAFER.

ORION'S HULKS! A NULL GRAV SHAFT!

CLOUDSPLICER IS OVER ONE OF YOUR KILOMETRES HIGH, AGENT TAFER. YOU WOULD FIND SO MANY STEPS TIRING, I ASSURE YOU.



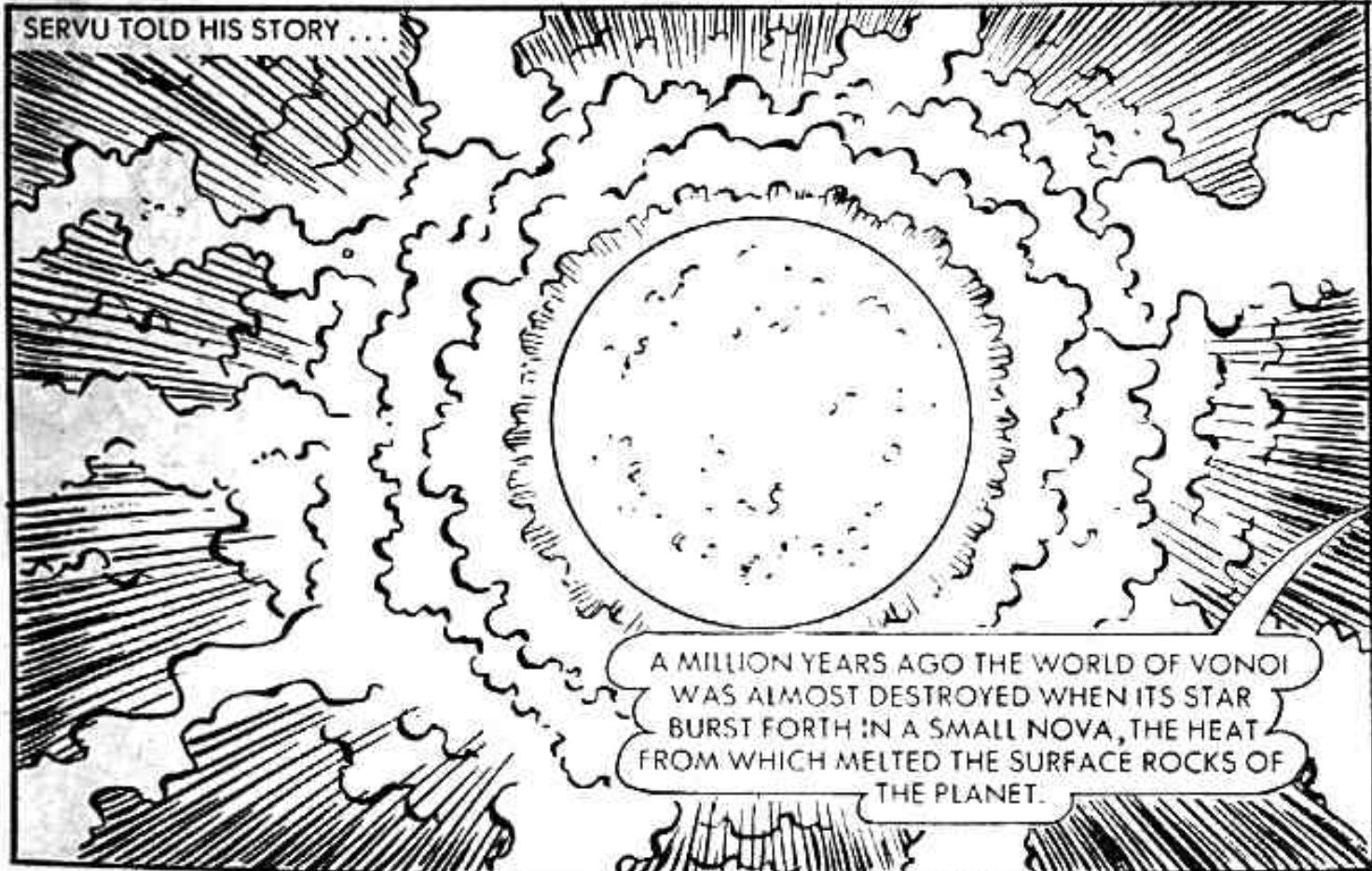




SERVU SET UP A HOLO-AURA WHICH ALLOWED A SPOKEN STORY TO BE ILLUSTRATED —



SERVU TOLD HIS STORY . . .



BU THE VONANS HAD FORESEEN THE TRAGEDY  
AND HAD DUG THEMSELVES CAVES DEEP IN THE  
BOWELS OF THEIR PLANET.







... MASKS! MASKS THAT HELD BUILT-IN MONITORS AND MECHANISMS THAT WOULD KEEP THEM ALIVE IN THE HELL THAT VONOI HAD BECOME. AND MORE THAN THAT — MAKE THEM ALMOST IMMORTAL!



THE IMAGES DIED -

SO NOW YOU UNDERSTAND,  
EARTHMAN.



SO THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE BEEN JEALOUS OF US!  
YOU HAVE SUFFERED TERRIBLY, BUT THAT GIVES  
YOU NO RIGHT TO DESTROY OTHER WORLDS.



TAFER APPEALED TO THE COUNCIL.



SUDDENLY TAFER AND SERVU WERE ALONE —

COME, AGENT TAFER, SENTENCE HAS  
BEEN PASSED UPON YOU.

THE COUNCIL'S DISAPPEARED! IT WAS A  
COMPUTER ILLUSION. I SHOULD HAVE  
REALISED — NO MASKS!

SERVU LED THE WAY.

WE SHALL SOON BE OUTSIDE. THE  
VONANS WILL KILL YOU QUICKLY AND  
MERCIFULLY.

THAT'S WHAT  
YOU THINK!

WE'LL SEE HOW THE MAGISTER LIKES A TASTE OF LASER POWER IN HIS VITALS!

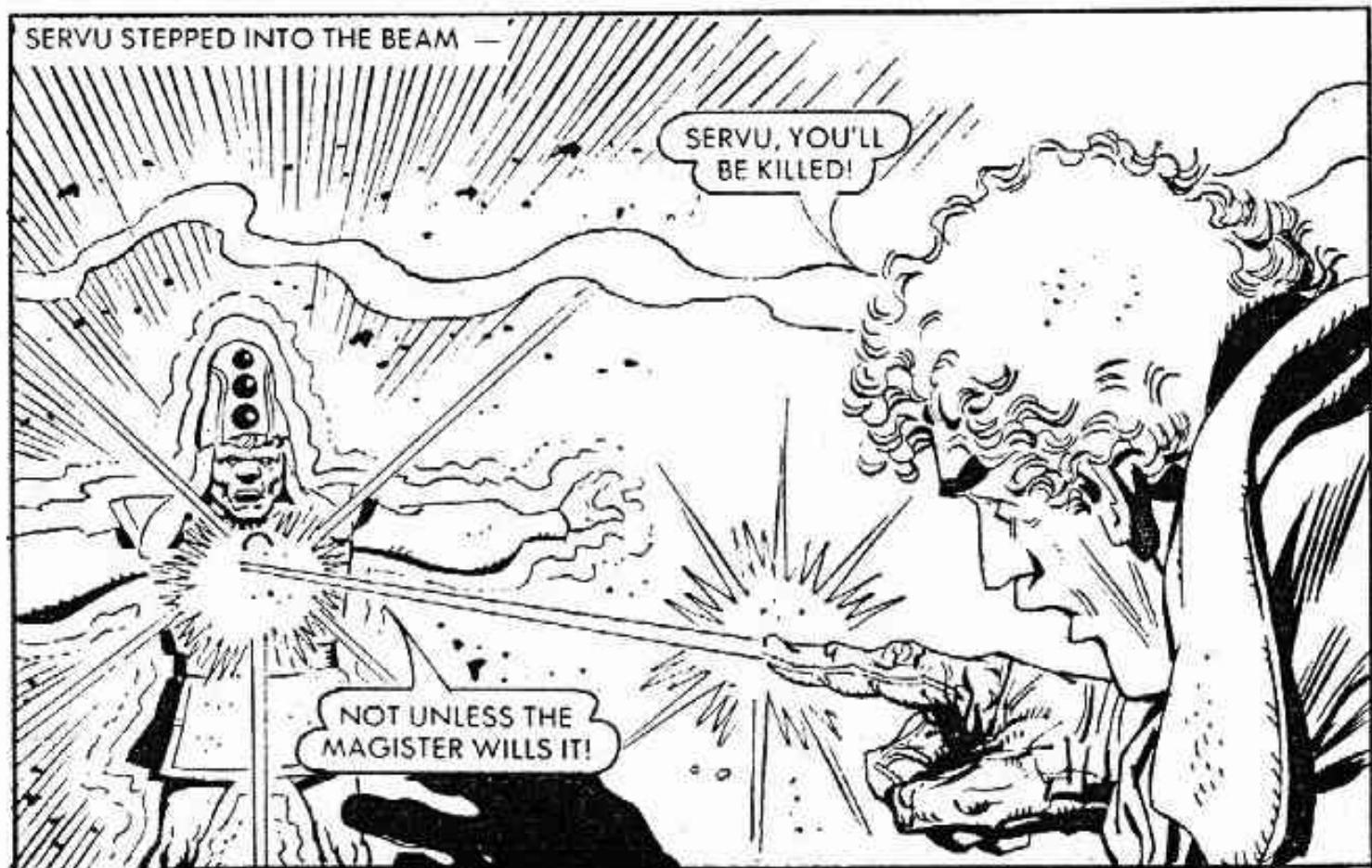
NO, STOP! YOU MUST COME WITH ME!



SERVU STEPPED INTO THE BEAM —

SERVU, YOU'LL BE KILLED!

NOT UNLESS THE MAGISTER WILLS IT!





AN IDEA FORMED IN TAFER'S MIND —



NO, YOU ARE WRONG. THE MAGISTER  
ISN'T ALL POWERFUL. THERE IS ONE  
THING IT CANNOT DESTROY.

BLASPHEMY!

THE POWER OF THE MAGISTER IS  
BEYOND ALL IMAGINING. THE  
MAGISTER CAN DESTROY ANYTHING.

IT CANNOT  
DESTROY ITSELF!

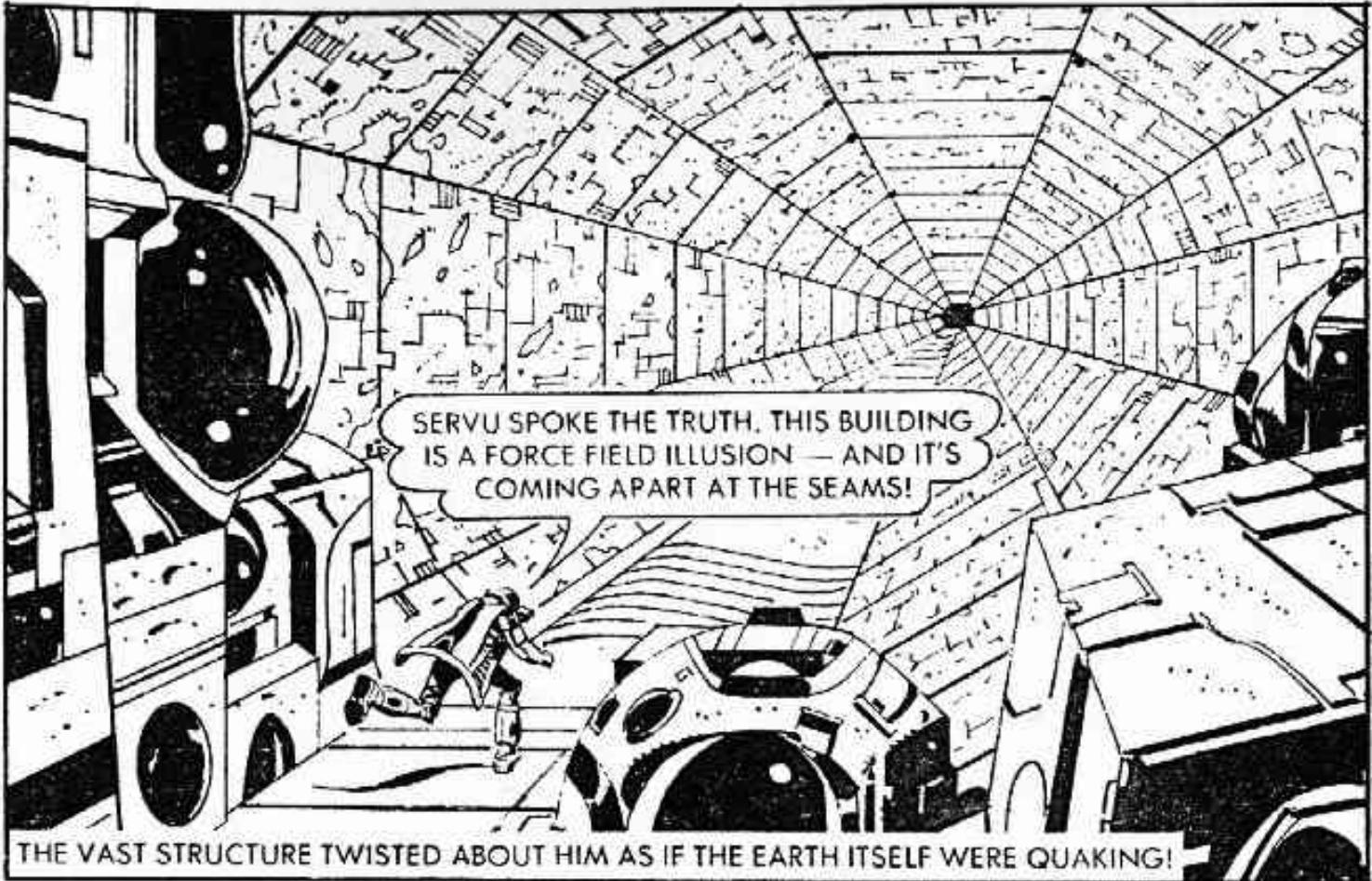
SERVU BEGAN TO DISAPPEAR —



I'VE HIT A RAW NERVE! I ONLY  
HOPE I'VE HIT IT HARD ENOUGH!

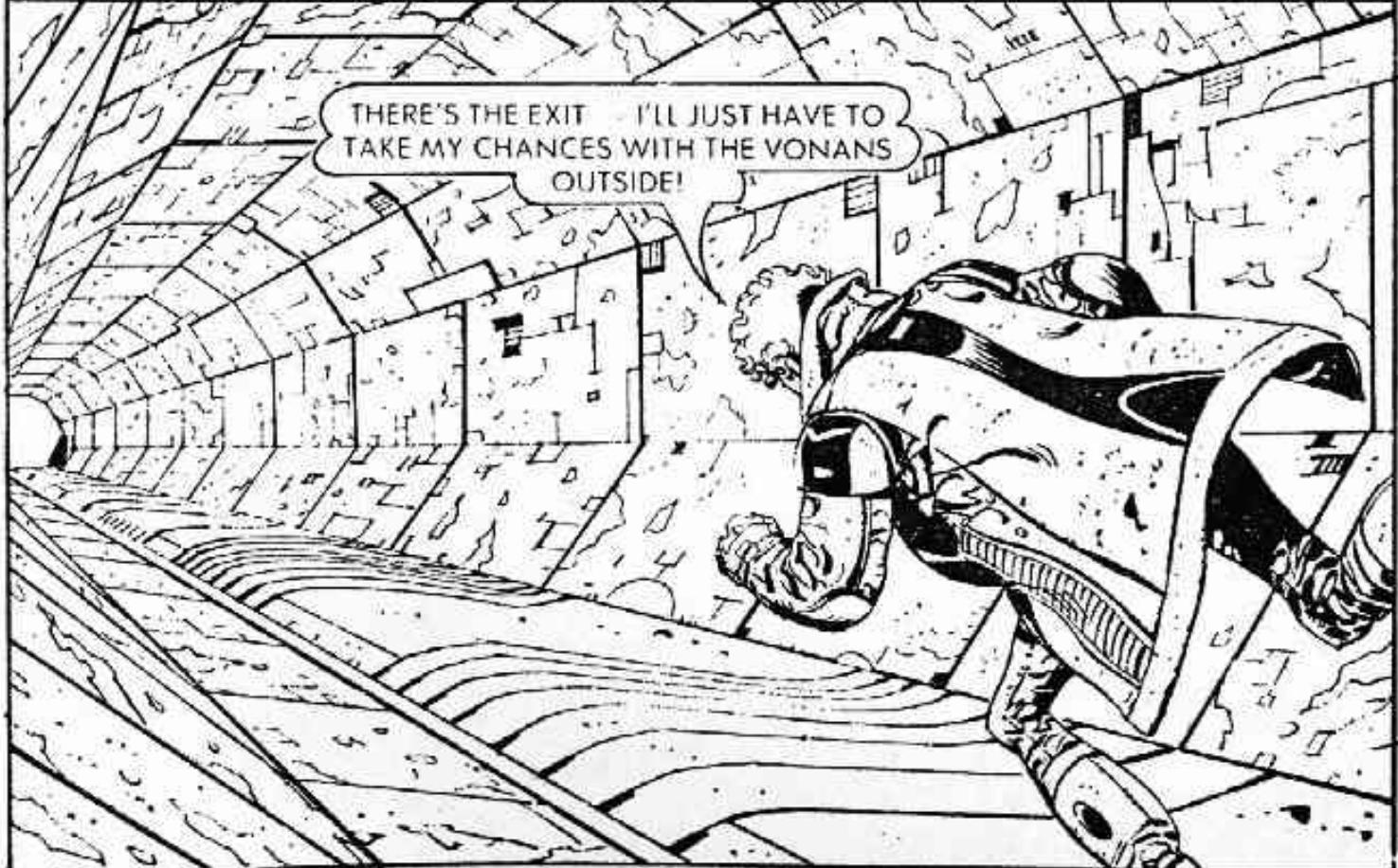


IF I'M RIGHT ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO  
HAPPEN NOW, I'VE GOT TO GET OUT  
OF HERE FAST!



SERVU SPOKE THE TRUTH. THIS BUILDING  
IS A FORCE FIELD ILLUSION — AND IT'S  
COMING APART AT THE SEAMS!

THE VAST STRUCTURE TWISTED ABOUT HIM AS IF THE EARTH ITSELF WERE QUAKING!



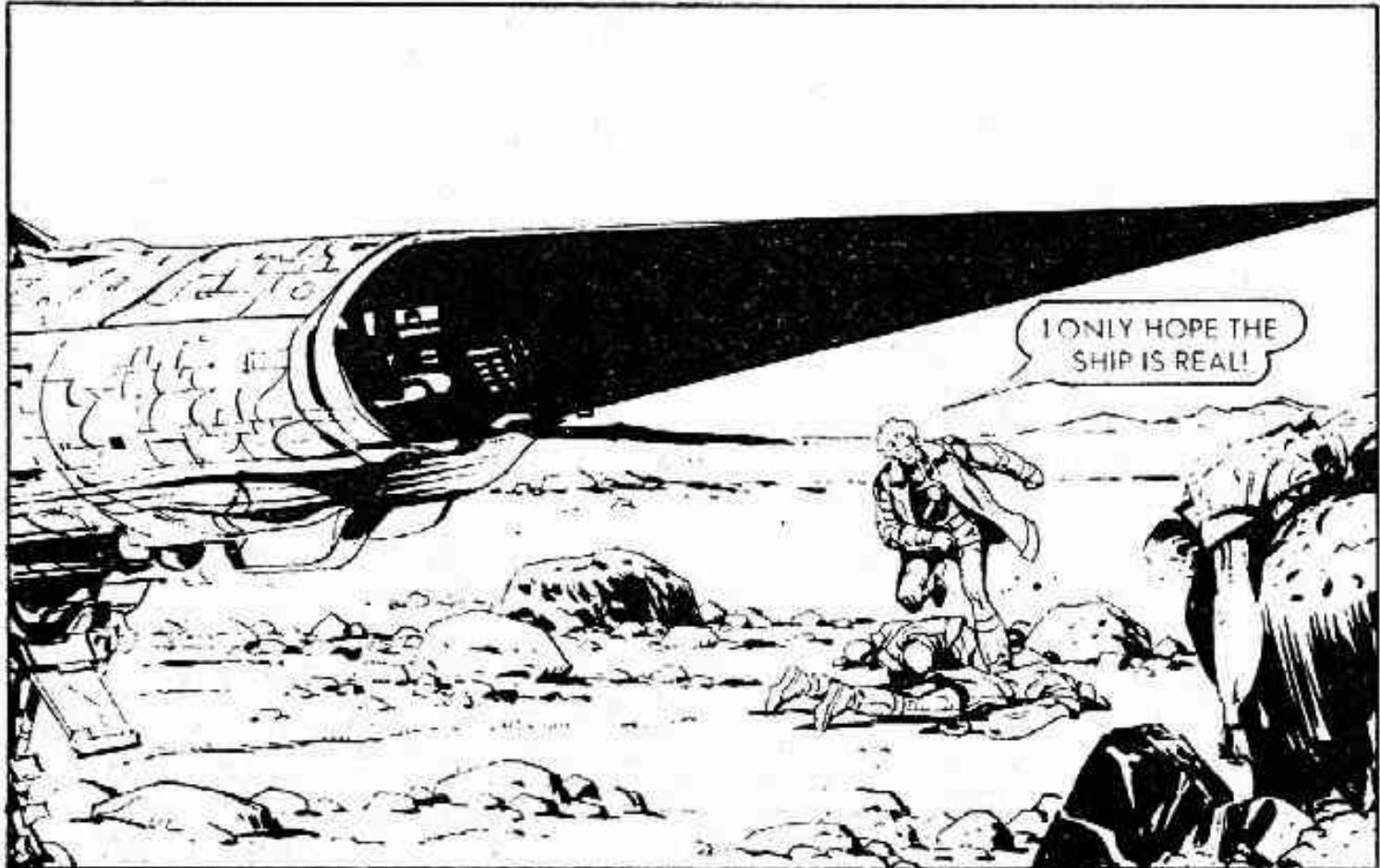
THERE'S THE EXIT — I'LL JUST HAVE TO  
TAKE MY CHANCES WITH THE VONANS  
OUTSIDE!

BUT THE VONANS PROVED TO BE NO PROBLEM.

THE MAGISTER CONTROLS THEM VIA  
THEIR FACE MASKS. THEY ARE NOW  
EXPOSED TO DEATH.



I ONLY HOPE THE  
SHIP IS REAL!

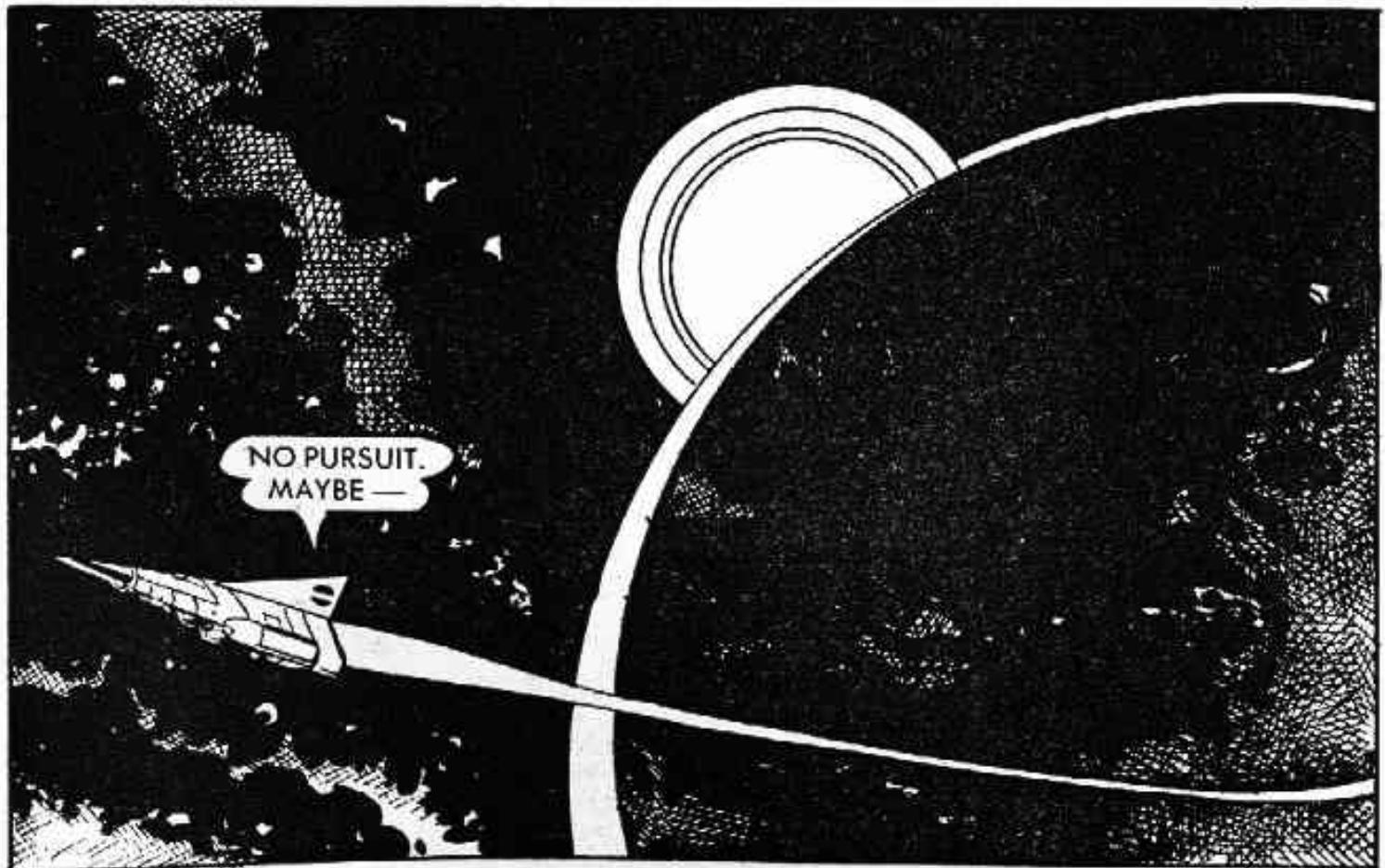
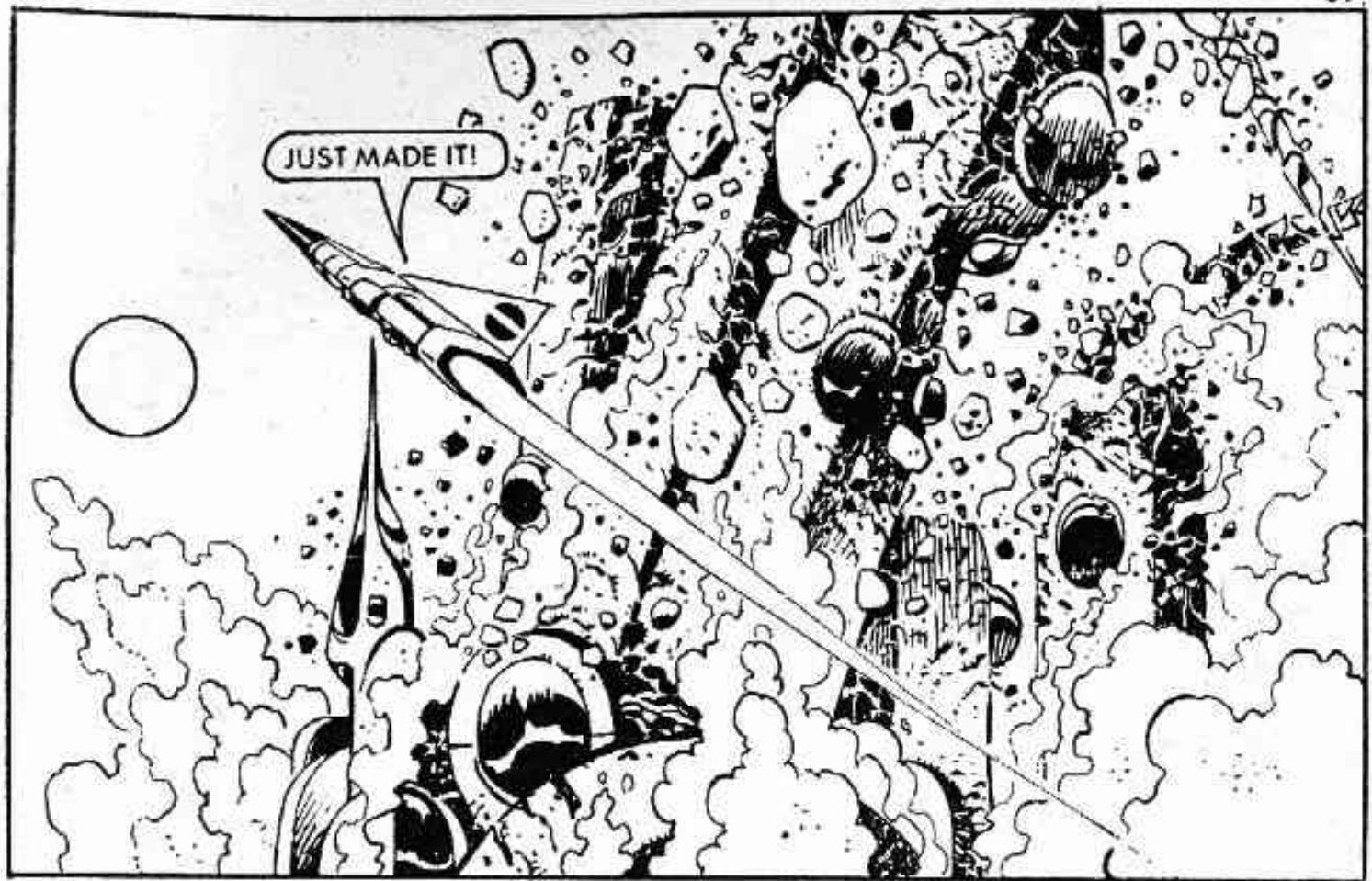






IT WAS A RACE AGAINST TIME









TAFER HEADED FOR INTERSTELLA, AND THE LAST PART OF HIS MISSION.

TAFER REPORTED BACK TO HIS SUPERIOR —





THE GOVERNOR OF XEROS III WAS A VONAN, AND YOU DON'T GET THAT FAR WITHOUT HELP. SECONDLY, WHEN I ARRIVED ON VONOI, COURTESY OF THE MISSILE, I WAS EXPECTED. THE ONLY WAY THAT COULD HAVE COME ABOUT WAS IF THE GOVERNOR HAD REPORTED THAT I HAD EVADED DEATH TO HIS SUPERIOR.





YOU'RE INGENIOUS, TOO  
CLEVER FOR ME . . .

CONGRATULATIONS, VONAN  
AND GOODBYE . . .



# DON'T FORGET THIS MONTH'S OTHER



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# STARBLAZER'S

GUIDE TO THE SPACEMEN

**B5**

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Grechko, a previous cosmonaut entered space on December 10, 1977 in Soyuz 26. The mission was led by Lieutenant Colonel Yuri V. Romanenko (left), 33, Air Force. The mission lasted 96 days 10 hours. Romanenko also flew Soyuz 38 on September 18, 1980, for 7 days 20 hours 43 minutes.